



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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June 13, 2001

Ref: 8ENF-L

SENT VIA REGULAR MAIL

Mr. Glenn Rogers, Chairman
Shivwits Band of Paiute Indian Tribe
P.O. Box 448
Santa Clara, UT 84765

Re: Revised Scope of Work Plans Submitted Per
EPA's Order Requiring Monitoring, Testing,
Analysis and Reporting for the Hecla Pond

Dear Chairman Rogers:

The purpose of this letter is to notify you of the revised scope of the work plans to be submitted by Hecla Mining Company ("Hecla") pursuant to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") Order Requiring Monitoring, Testing, Analysis and Reporting for the Hecla Pond, issued under Section 3013 ("3013 Order") of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act ("RCRA").

As you know, EPA issued the 3013 Order directing Hecla to prepare work plans in order to ascertain the nature and extent of harm posed by the hazardous waste stored in or released from the Hecla Pond. Because both EPA and Hecla acknowledge that hazardous substances exist in the Hecla Pond, the parties have agreed that further characterization of these wastes as proposed in the current work plan is unnecessary and unhelpful to determining the extent of release, if any, outside of the Hecla Pond, and an appropriate closure remedy. The key issue to both the closure and contamination questions is to discern the extent of seepage from the Hecla Pond into the subsurface bedrock and possibly the lower-lying aquifer. Once this issue is resolved, the parties can concentrate on how best to stop the seepage and remove the liquid from the wastepile. Toward this end, the parties have agreed for Hecla to dispense with additional soil and leachate sampling and submit a revised work plan that entails the drilling of two wells to determine the extent of saturation. One well will be drilled within the Hecla Pond down to the lining bottom and below if necessary. The second well will be installed in the area of the seep that exists to the northeast of the Pond. The parties hope that the information obtained from these drillings will answer existing questions pertaining to the extent and area of saturation, and will help define the scope and type of remediation. Given the large expanse of bedrock,



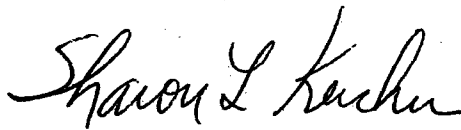
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estimated between 200 to 300 feet, separating the bottom of the Hecla Pond and the underlying aquifer, both parties believe that it is unlikely that the liquids from the Hecla Pond have seeped very far below the surface.

Hecla anticipates that the revised work plans will be made available on or around June 30, 2001. You will be provided the opportunity to review and comment on the revised work plans upon issuance. Following final approval of the revised work plans by EPA, Hecla will mobilize the drilling equipment on-site and install the two monitoring wells. Representatives from EPA, the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Band will be invited to attend the drilling and review the drilling results.

Please contact Ms. Janice Pearson directly at (303) 312- 6354, if you have questions regarding this letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Sharon L. Kercher".

Sharon L. Kercher, Director
Technical Enforcement Director

cc: John R. Jacus, Counsel for Hecla Mining Company
Joe Souther, HKM Engineering